

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF CONNECTICUT

This chapter has been prepared under a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Geological Survey and the Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey for collecting information on all nonfuel minerals.

In 1997, Connecticut ranked 46th among the 50 States in total nonfuel mineral production value,¹ according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The State was 44th in 1996. The estimated value for 1997 was about \$65 million, a 21% decrease from that of 1996. This followed an 11.5% decrease from 1995 to 1996 (based on final 1996 data). The State accounted for somewhat less than 0.5% of the U.S. total nonfuel mineral production value. Crushed stone and construction sand and gravel, the leading mineral commodities by value, accounted for nearly all of the State's total nonfuel mineral production and value. In 1997, the decrease in the production and value of crushed stone accounted for most of the State's drop in value. While the value of dimension stone showed a small increase, those of construction sand and gravel and common clays decreased slightly, and gemstones remained unchanged.

¹The terms "nonfuel mineral production" and related "values" encompass variations in meaning, depending on the minerals or mineral products. Production may be measured by mine shipments, mineral commodity sales, or marketable production (including consumption by producers) as is applicable to the individual mineral commodity.

All 1997 USGS mineral production data published in this chapter are estimates as of January 1998. Construction sand and gravel and crushed stone estimates are updated periodically. To obtain the most current information, please contact the appropriate USGS mineral commodity specialist. Call MINES FaxBack at (703) 648-4999 from a fax machine with a touch-tone handset, and request Document # 1000 for a telephone listing of all mineral commodity specialists, or call USGS information at (703) 648-4000 for the specialist's name and number. This telephone listing may also be retrieved over the Internet at <http://minerals.er.usgs.gov/minerals/contacts/comdir.html>. All Mineral Industry Surveys—mineral commodity, State, and country—also may be retrieved by way of MINES FaxBack or over the Internet at <http://minerals.er.usgs.gov/minerals/>.

The following narrative information was provided by the Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey.² Fairfield Resources Inc. received a renewal of its crushed stone mining permit for its quarry in the town of Brookfield, Fairfield County, in January 1997 from Brookfield's Planning and Zoning Commission. Nearly 6 months prior to this, in August 1996, Fairfield reached a settlement with the State Department of Environmental Protection in a 10-year-old dispute over environmental infractions, agreeing to pay a fine of \$123,000 to the State and the Town of Brookfield. Residents had complained for years about drilling and blasting noise. Sonoco Northeastern, Inc. proposed to open a new stone quarry in the City of Groton, New London County, and began the lengthy process of obtaining the necessary permits from the city.

The Roxbury Land Trust is trying to raise \$70,000 to restore the granite tops of two old ovens at the Roxbury Iron Mine in Roxbury, Litchfield County. The mine operated sporadically from 1753 to 1872, first for silver, then iron, although never profitably. The ovens were used for roasting iron ore (siderite) before it was sent to the furnace at the site.

A proposal to open a museum of mining history in Connecticut is being acted upon by parties in the private sector. The collection of funds and artifacts proceeded during 1997.

²Nancy McHone, Environmental Analyst, authored the text submitted by the Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey.

TABLE 1
NONFUEL RAW MINERAL PRODUCTION IN CONNECTICUT 1/ 2/

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars unless otherwise specified)

Mineral	1995		1996		1997 p/	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Gemstones	NA	5	NA	5	NA	5
Sand and gravel, construction	6,410	37,500	6,380	26,900	6,210	26,800
Stone, crushed	6,070 3/	45,500 3/	6,720	55,000	4,600	38,000
Combined value of other industrial minerals	XX	9,470	XX	(4/)	XX	(4/)
Total	XX	92,500	XX	81,900 5/	XX	64,800 5/

p/ Preliminary. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

1/ Production as measured by mine shipments, sales, or marketable production (including consumption by producers).

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Excludes certain stones; kind and value included with "Combined value" data.

4/ Value excluded to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

5/ Partial total, excludes values that must be concealed to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2
CONNECTICUT: CRUSHED STONE SOLD OR USED, BY KIND 1/

Kind	1995				1996			
	Number of quarries	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value	Number of quarries	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value
Limestone	6	1,400	\$10,600	\$7.58	6	1,480	11,200	\$7.55
Dolomite	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	1	W	W	W
Granite	6	172	1,530	8.88	6	144	1,110	7.70
Traprock	9	4,500	33,400	7.42	8	4,580	33,500	7.31
Quartzite	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	1	W	W	4.35
Miscellaneous stone	--	--	--	--	3	W	W	W
Total	XX	6,070	45,500	7.50	XX	6,720	55,000	8.19

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total." XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Excludes dolomite and quartzite from State total to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 3
CONNECTICUT: CRUSHED STONE SOLD OR USED BY PRODUCERS
IN 1996, BY USE 1/ 2/

Use	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value
Coarse and fine aggregates; other construction materials 3/	772	\$7,080	\$9.17
Agricultural; agricultural limestone	W	W	14.88
Special; other fillers or extenders	W	W	24.08
Unspecified: 4/			
Actual	1,520	11,900	7.78
Estimated	4,220	31,400	7.43
Total	6,720	55,000	8.19

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

1/ Includes dolomite, granite, limestone, miscellaneous stone, quartzite, and traprock.

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Includes bituminous aggregate (coarse), concrete aggregate (coarse), graded roadbase or subbase, other coarse aggregate, other graded coarse aggregate, screening (undesigned), unpaved road surfacing, and terrazzo and exposed aggregate.

4/ Includes production reported without a breakdown by end use and estimates for nonrespondents.

TABLE 4
 CONNECTICUT: CONSTRUCTION SAND AND GRAVEL SOLD OR USED IN 1996,
 BY MAJOR USE CATEGORY 1/

Use	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Value per ton
Concrete aggregate and concrete products 2/	933	\$6,020	\$6.45
Asphaltic concrete aggregates and other bituminous mixtures	347	1,630	4.71
Road base and coverings	572	3,740	6.53
Fill	523	2,100	4.01
Snow and ice control	369	1,960	5.30
Other miscellaneous uses	2	7	3.50
Unspecified: 3/			
Actual	882	2,880	3.26
Estimated	2,750	8,540	3.11
Total or average	6,380	26,900	4.21

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes plaster and gunite sands.

3/ Includes production reported without a breakdown by end use and estimates for nonrespondents.